

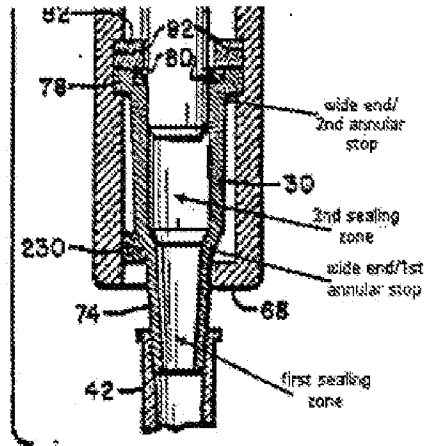
## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 4, 5, and 6 are currently pending and have been amended to put the application in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 5 and 6 under 35 USC 112, support for a third sealing zone recited in Claims 5 and 6 is found at least in paragraph [0019]. These previously added claims are therefore proper and believed to be patentable over the prior art.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Yonkers (US Patent No. 4,599,220), and the rejection of Claims 2 and 5 under U.S.C. §103(a) over Yonkers, independent Claims 2 and 4 as presently amended each call for a pipette tip mounting shaft configured to alternatively engage and retain a pipette tip of a first diameter and a pipette tip of a second diameter, a first conically tapered sealing zone selectively engaged with the pipette tip of a first diameter, and a second sealing zone being coaxial with the first sealing zone and selectively engaged with the pipette tip of a second diameter.

In contrast, Yonkers discloses only one sealing zone that can be selectively engaged by a pipette tip. More specifically, the features referenced as the “wide end/1<sup>st</sup> annular stop” and the “2<sup>nd</sup> sealing zone” (cylinder 30) in the Examiner’s illustration (copied below for convenience) are segregated from the tip of pipette 42 on one side by flange 68 of cover 25 and on the opposite side by foot 230 and notches 232 of plate 40. Thus, because these features cited by the Examiner cannot be engaged by a pipette, Yonkers lacks a second sealing zone selectively engaged with the pipette tip of a second diameter as called for by amended Claims 2 and 4.



Regarding Applicants' earlier submitted arguments that Yonkers does not disclose a first or second pipette tip stop that is *substantially perpendicular* to the axis defining the first and second sealing zones as called for by Claims 2 and 4, Applicants' respectfully assert that what is *substantially perpendicular* is clearly recited. Specifically, Claims 2 and 4 clearly recite that it is the pipette tip stops that are *substantially perpendicular*. Additionally, Figure 1 clearly shows a pipette tip stop located between features 5 and 6 and between features 7 and 8, each of Figures 2 and 3 show one of pipette tips 20 and 21 engaged against one of the first and second pipette tip stops, and the written description clearly recites what the stop is, for example, in paragraph [0012] "first pipette tip stop, defined by inner edge 5 and outer edge 6". Additionally, Applicants' respectfully assert that *substantially perpendicular* is definite as the term perpendicular is understood to be 90 degrees.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and timely examination to that end is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further questions regarding any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at (317) 891-1500.

Application Serial No. 10/693,389  
Amendment dated September 8, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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